



84ft
OF
LUXURY
AND
MAGNIFICENCE

It was in early February this year when Lars informed me that his company would be expecting some guests and business partners from Europe. The reason for the visit was to witness history in the making - the most anticipated event in 2008 held in Singapore – The World’s First Formula 1 Grand Prix Night Race.

Seven months later on 28 September 2008, history was made in the Grand Prix as our tiny island nation hosted the world’s first-ever Formula 1 night race. But this is not a story about racing or about how Fernando Alonso achieved his stunning victory. This is about the day after the race. As part of the itinerary for his guests, Lars made prior arrangements to charter a yacht for them in style.

At 7.30 am, I sent a text message to Lars to see if we would still be boarding the yacht. His answer was ‘Yes, see you there.’ I replied ‘Ok’ and added in jest ‘hope you did not put any money on Ferrari’. There was no reply so I

made a mental note and reminded myself not to push my luck. A case of “Man Overboard” is no joke!

The Yacht ... oops, make that a Mega-Yacht!

I arrived at the Changi Sailing Club at 8.30 am and while waiting for the others to arrive; I managed to obtain permission to board the mega-yacht that was chartered. Ladies and gentlemen, may I present the Trimaran Long Ranger.

Measuring an impressive 84 feet in length with an unbelievable 35-foot beam, she is as comfortable and magnificent as can be. A triple



Incoming...



...approaching...



...turning...



and Voila! There she was!



The Deck



Fly Bridge



Safety Briefing by the Skipper

up to 36 guests on a day sail.

The Captain, Warren Blake was kind enough to show me around.

Long Ranger boasts 4 air-conditioned cabins (with bathrooms attached) plus a personal TV/DVD player in each of them. There is also a spacious saloon (air-conditioned too) - fitted with 2 plasma TVs and a home entertainment system. Food is prepared in the galley (that's what they call a kitchen on a yacht) and it comes complete with a fridge, freezer, microwave oven, conventional oven and stove.

On extended charters to islands off the east coast of Malaysia, Captain Blake explained that the saloon could be converted to a sleeping area to accommodate more guests. Long Ranger is able to take up to 16 guests to nice and pristine waters off Tioman, Pulau Aur or the Leeward Isles.

Before casting off, Captain Blake went through the formalities (safety briefing) and judging by the amount of beers and wines in the coolers - I would say that he was spot-on by conducting a safety briefing before the first beer can was opened.

Fun in the Sun

While cruising, I thought to myself that it would be really nice to have a family gathering on board. And when you have a big family like



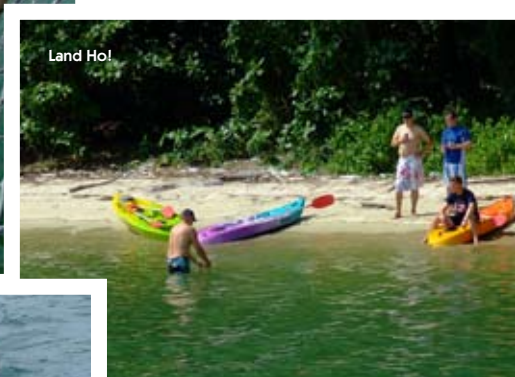
Hold on tight!



Launching the Kayaks



A break from kayaking



Land Ho!

mine consisting of 24 adults and 8 kids - it's really nice, spacious and comfortable on this mega-yacht. No problems when it comes to the adults, all we need to do is ensure that there is sufficient beer and wine, but what about the kids? They get really restless, really fast. The easy way out is to bring a gaming console and leave them in the saloon, but that really defeats the purpose.

Just as I was about to make some enquiries, we reached our first destination and the friendly English speaking crew launched the kayaks. Some of us took to the kayaks like kids to cotton candy! The waters here are calm and you can easily paddle your way to the beach. Problem solved, no enquiries needed!

After an hour or so the next treat came alongside - lo and behold, the Jet Ski! Lars had made arrangements for a jet ski to meet the vessel at a pre-determined rendezvous point. The Jet Ski comes with a licensed rider and life vests for passenger(s) and it can be great fun for the whole family.

Lunch was served and it included roast lamb, hotdogs, cheese, potato salad and all the things that make you go "yummilicious". With our bellies filled, we started cruising and some of us decided to have a go with the boom net. This is a must-try if you ever board the Long Ranger. Getting "dragged" in the sea can be quite an experience!

Before we knew it, it was time to dock and we said farewell to Captain Blake and the crew. I promised that I would be in touch real soon for another trip. I was fortunate to have experienced Long Ranger, and it is only fair that my family and friends get to do the same.



Safety belts not included



Jet Ski Arrives!



The Boom Net

THE OLD MAN AND THE S.E.A SKIPPER'S PROFILE CAPTAIN WARREN BLAKE

In 1964, a young Warren Blake built a tiny 9 metre trimaran and sailed away from Auckland, New Zealand. His parents approved of a circumnavigation of the globe under sail on condition that he return to New Zealand, get a proper job and marry a nice kiwi lass. Unknown to the parents, their son's dreams revolves around a grand trip along the circumference of the earth with hopes of some conspiracy with a beautiful brown Princess to overthrow a despotic Sultan and rule in benign splendour over a gem-like tropic isle... The final outcome differs in detail, broadly similar in felicity but without the conspiracy.

Warren sailed to the South Pacific French colonies, and was entranced by what seems to him at that time, beautiful sylph-like creatures with prominent cheekbones and long, silky black hair. They were the Les Tonquinoises, Girls of Tonkin, North Vietnam. Little did he know that, years later, he would in reality marry one of them in her native country (but no despotic Sultan throughout the process).

Captain Blake first sailed into Singapore in April 1965, on the eve of Independence and has been sailing and exploring the seas, islands and rivers of South East Asia ever since. He has found many wonderful, hidden corners of distant archipelagos which the heavy hand of Man had barely touched. Sadly, most of these have since been "developed", with concrete, garbage dumps and golf courses where birds, jungle and coral used to live in natural splendour.

Captain and Mrs Blake often take exploration trip with kids and buddies, and these slowly developed into more organized school trips with local and some international schools. These enabled the jaded Captain to see all the wonders anew through young eyes, and provide the opportunity to teach young people all he know about the sea and sailing, the rich maritime history, the vivid sea-going literature, the ecology of the sea, coral reefs and of island jungles.



Sailing on Four Friends with students from Raffles JC and Victoria JC.



Absailing with Temasek Poly students. Captain on rope number three, with camera.



The Leeward Isle



of the cliffs of Aur



Long Ranger at Full Sail



Sunset Cruise



The Boom Net



Wild Party

Long Ranger Fast Facts

- Mega-Yacht Class New Zealand built Trimaran
- 84-feet in length, 35-feet beam
- Displaces 65-tonnes
- Sails comfortably at 10 knots in a brisk breeze
- Voyages at 10 knots with her twin engines
- 4 air-conditioned cabins with bathrooms attached
- Spacious air-conditioned saloon
- Fully functional galley
- Outdoor Marine BBQ
- Accommodating up to 36 guests on a day or evening sail
- Up to 18 guests for extended charters (live on board for 3 to 7 days)

Available Charters & Services

- Day Cruise, from 10 am to 4 pm
- Sunset Cruise, from 5 pm to 11 pm
- Full Day Cruise, from 10 am to 8 pm
- Live-on-board Extended Cruise
- Optional Lunch & Dinners

For bookings and enquiries, email azul@fishingkaki.com or visit <http://azul.fishingkaki.com/>

